

Healthy RI National Health Reform Implementation Taskforce
Pilots and Grants Work Group
Notes from 6/30/10 Meeting

1) Introductions of workgroup members and the staff / interns (Temporary Chair)

2) Task for today:

Review description of group-topic to which we are assigned.

- Review our full assignment, which will result in a draft report by September 3,
- Discuss scope of group and specify how the group will define it.
- Review current grants in progress or available from the federal government

3) Description of the Topic/Summary of Role of Group:

- A summary of the scope of the group (provided by the Lt. Governor's office) was handed out.
- Discussion and decisions by the group about role:
- This group will be looking at funding opportunities, grants and pilots for both the public and private sectors.
- The group will rely on interns to get information on funding opportunities; to communicate, and to avoid unnecessary overlap with other Work Groups.
- In the short term (until September) the group agreed to:
 - Monitor funding opportunities and let eligible parties know about funding opportunities . The Work Group will keep abreast of progress in RI in the area of applications for current health reform grants and opportunities. Long term goal would be for the state to create a statewide system of such information.
 - This group will identify information about current and near-term available opportunities, find out who is applying, facilitate public/private partnerships to apply for grants , and discuss potential opportunities that would be priorities to explore from a state policy perspective. It was pointed out that the Work Group should be selective about which opportunities state pursue and suggest which ones are the most strategically important. The group should take note of grants that would build on momentum being generated by current RI reform efforts.
 - The group agreed to identify funding opportunities, to discuss funding opportunities, to communicate with other Work Groups regarding upcoming opportunities, and to recommend which opportunities to explore in RI.
 - The group will create a matrix of near-term funding opportunities, deadlines, and eligible applicants for inclusion in the draft workgroup report. The matrix will focus on the fiscal year's 2010 and 2011. This grid will be the major part of the group's report.
 - The work group role is short term. The group will not take on a clearinghouse role. Nor is the group's role to facilitate grant applications, make sure that the necessary parties apply in time, and help them to apply. Ultimate responsibility for applying for grants is with state agencies, non-profits, educational institutions and providers.
- Long term group recommendations:
 - The group will develop recommendations to the Lt. Gov. and next Governor to create a clearinghouse process at the state level to monitor and track funding opportunities on an ongoing basis. Such structures have been set up in other states. For example, the Governor could appoint a health reform 'czar' to play this kind of role. The group will examine models from other states to inform their recommendation.

3) Final Assignment for Workgroups

- Template handed out of the final Work Group report. The creation of this report is the end task as a group and will guide our work.
- In the report, the Work Group will identify relevant parts of the bill, indicate which opportunities

for funding are required vs. optional, and make recommendations for a process going forward. Including how to facilitate communication and transparency about grants and deadlines.

- Draft of report due September 3rd.

4) Organizational Categories of the Pilots Grants

- Suggestion to organize opportunities by subject area, such as workforce, payment reform, etc.
- Funding opportunities are already inventoried in the UMASS document.

5) Discussion of current opportunities for Rhode Island:

- High Risk pool –The Governor nominated and endorsed it on Monday. Blue Cross will be the state's designated high risk pool.
- Primary care residency expansion: has been contacted, institutions not agree there are too many conditions and barriers to make this feasible.
- Advanced nursing expansion: contacted URI School of Nursing
- Personal and Home care: notified CCRI, URI, DHS's TANF Program.
- It was noted that in the area of Workforce training, academic institutions move slowly, slowly, timeline may be too short. It would be preferable for the federal gov't to consider distance learning opportunities.
- State Health Care Workforce planning: Is state planning board applying? Check State workforce board.
- Medicare Multipayer: only 6 states funded, PCMH is applying. Deadline extended.. Very competitive application being submitted. DOH, DHS and OHIC partnering and supporting.
- Long term care grants: ADRC.s are eligible to apply and are aware of the opportunity. All states get an amount of money, all states apply for first one.
- Criminal Background Check: Being managed in LTC workgroup.
- Health Insurance Premium Rate Review: OHIC Grant, each state gets at least one million dollars, but we must apply. OHIC is writing application, will submit. RI will receive one million dollars.